

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06419 140644Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 IO-10 /070 W

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R 140554Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMOESSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: CHAVAN'S NEW YORK CALL FOR IMPROVED INDO-US TIES

1. SEVERAL NEW DELHI PAPERS CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES ON MAY 13 REPORTING FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN'S STATEMENT IN NEW YORK THAT INDIA SEEKS BETTER TIES TO THE UNITED STATES. THE INDUSTAN TIMES CARRIED THE MOST DETAILED PRESS TRUST OF INDIAN (PTI) ACCOUNT QUOTING CHAVAN AS SAYING THAT IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISSUE OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN, "WE CERTAINLY HAVE A POSITIVE DESIRE TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US." CHAVAN IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE WILL PREFER THEIR NOT ADDING TO THE TENSION BY GIVING ARMS (TO PAKISTAN)." THE ACCOUNT ALSO REPORTS AMBASSADOR T.N. KAUL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAVAN EXPLAINING THAT KAUL BRIEFED CHAVAN ON THE THINKING IN THE US ON INDO-US RELATIONS, ADDING THAT KAUL HAD IN THE PAST FEW DAYS SEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO. THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT KAUL WOULD SEE THE SEC-
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 06419 140644Z

RETARY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR CONSULATIONS IN NEW DELHI.

2. THE PTI ACCOUNT SUMMARIZED THE SISCO/INGERSOLL MEETINGS AND REPORTED A US DESIRE TO SEE THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMISSIONS CONTINUE WHICH CHAVAN RECIPROCATED. ON THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA, CHAVAN SAID, "SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, OUR INVITATION TO PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT INDIA STANDS. THIS IS TO TAKE PLACE AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE." CHAVAN ALSO REFERRED TO MRS. GANDHI'S STATEMENT THAT INDIA WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE AREAS OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. OTHER CHAVAN QUOTES WERE: "WE WANT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES IS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT COUNTRY. AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST SAY WHAT WE WANT TO SAY WHERE WE DIFFER. THAT IS THE TEST OF FRIENDSHIP. THE TEST OF REAL AND MATURE FRIENDSHIP IS WHERE WE DIFFER, WE SHOULD NOT BE INHIBITED TO SPEAK, AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE INHIBITED TO SPEAK, AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD."

3. COMMENT: CHAVAN'S COMMENTS REFLECT CONTINUED SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN TONE OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE US FROM RESPONSIBLE GOI OFFICIALS. SNIPING FROM THE LEFT CONTINUES HOWEVER. FOR EXAMPLE, FAR LEFT GOI LABOR MINISTER, K.V. RAGHUNATH REDDY ON MAY 11 REPORTEDLY PICKED UP THE CIA THEME AGAIN AT A POLITICAL MEETING IN ORISSA, SAYING THAT CIA, "WHICH WAS AN INSTRUMENT OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION", HAD FOUND ORISSA "TO BE A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND".
END COMMENT.
SAXBE

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